GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:398
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2005
SETTING UP OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS
Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been pursuing a policy of strengthening democracy in the country by setting up democratic institutions wherever they are weak or inadequate;

(b) if so, the time frame for setting up a legislature in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep and other UTs on the pattern existing in Delhi and Pondicherry;

(c) if not, any pattern is being thought about to empower the Islanders for framing legislation as is being done by States/UTs with legislatures; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There are several factors such as size of the population, financial viability etc. which have to be considered before a decision is taken about the establishment of a Legislative Assembly. However, in all the Union Territories, Panchayati Raj institutions have been established to involve the people in the development programmes at the grassroot level.